

UNITED STATES v. THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL  
COMPANY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF MAY 24, 1900,  
RELATIVE TO THE CASE OF THE UNITED STATES V. THE  
NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

JUNE 5, 1900.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, June 4, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of copy of the resolution of the Senate, dated the 24th ultimo, wherein I am directed to report the disposition made of the appeal of the defendant in the case of *The United States v. The North American Commercial Company*, made in the United States circuit court, southern district of New York, against a judgment rendered by said court in favor of the United States, April 27, 1896, which appeal was carried to the United States circuit court of appeals; also, that I advise the Senate what amount is now due the Treasury of the United States, under the order of the court, from the North American Commercial Company for rental, taxes, and bonus on sealskins taken under the terms of its lease of the seal islands of Alaska; also, what number of seal pups, if any, have starved on the islands in Bering Sea during the seasons 1898 and 1899, and whether the practice of branding seals is still pursued, and what has been the effect of the branding of seals in preserving seal life.

In reply I have to state that the indebtedness of the North American Commercial Company to the United States has been settled by payment of principal and interest made by said company as lessees of the seal islands, and that said company is not now in arrears.

No information is contained in the annual reports for 1898 and 1899 of the agent in charge of the seal islands as to the number of dead seal pups on said islands.

The practice of branding seals, inaugurated in 1896, has continued. Sufficient time has not elapsed to enable a definite conclusion to be reached as to the effect of the branding in preserving seal life.

Respectfully,

L. J. GAGE,  
*Secretary.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PRO TEMPORE.

